

**From:** Mark W Brehob  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 9:17am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Why I believe the proposed settlement with Microsoft should not be allowed to go forward:

The settlement doesn't force the company to stop doing actions that eight federal judges found illegal. It provides no real penalty for the illegal acts. Telling Microsoft to "play fair" has never worked in the past.

Giving computer makers more freedom is a useful result. A few weeks ago I ordered a computer from Dell. I wanted a machine which either ran Linux or Windows 2000. They did sell a Linux box, but not in a useful configuration for my purposes. They had exactly zero Windows 2000 boxes. XP is buggy and not yet supported by my workplace (due to security concerns) but I had to buy XP anyways. I'll need to install an older version of windows on top of that.

But even so, Microsoft must be punished for their illegal actions, otherwise others will feel free to ignore anti-trust laws. I personally would suggest a large fine (20+ billion) and that most of that money be used to fund open source software development -- Microsoft's largest competitor. I'm certain a non-profit organization could be formed to do just that.

A small wrist slap, and a mumbled promise from Microsoft not to sin again is clearly insufficient.

Thank you,

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